

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, IN

SUBJECT: PL 480 NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 270958

1. THIRD PL 480 NEGOTIATING SESSION TOOK PLACE DECEMBER 13. THERE WAS FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON LOCAL CURRENCY REPAYMENT ISSUE DISCUSSED IN PARA 2 OF REFTEL, BUT ISSUE NOT YET RESOLVED. INDIANS ASKED THAT WE NOW AGREE TO FLAT COMMITMENT WE WILL TAKE PAYMENT ONLY IN DOLLARS AND NOT ASK FOR ANY RUPEES.

2. ARTICLE III (A0(4) PROBLEM OUTLINED PARA 3 OF REFTEL (EXPORT LIMITATION PROBLEM) ALSO DISCUSSED FURTHER. U.S. SIDE PROPOSED INCLUDE LANGUAGE IN AGREED MINUTES THAT USG RECOGNIZES GOI HAD EXPORT COMMITMENTS BEFORE SIGNING OF SALES AGREEMENT, AND GOI AGREES NOT TO MAKE FOODGRAIN SHIPMENTS INCONSISTENT WITH THE LANGUAGE OF PL 480 SALES AGREEMENT (I.E. NOT TO EXPORT GRAIN TO USSR). GOI SAID IT

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WOULD STUDY THIS PROPOSAL.

3. INDIANS ALSO ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE AGREEMENT FOR 500,000 TONS RATHER THAN 300,000 TONS, SINCE THEY UNDERSTOOD U.S. PLANNED ALLOCATE AT LEAST 500,000 TONS FOR INDIA IN THIS FISCAL YEAR. U.S. SIDE POINTED OUT

SINCE FINAL DECISION ON ADDITIONAL 200,000 TONS NOT YET FORMALLY TAKEN, U.S. COULD NOT SIGN AGREEMENT FOR HALF MILLION TONS AT THIS TIME. IF INDIANS WERE PREPARED DELAY SIGNING FOR 10 DAYS - 2 WEEKS, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE AGREEMENT FOR 500 THOUSAND TONS. INDIANS SAID THEY WOULD THINK MATTER OVER.

4. NO DEFINITE DATE SET FOR NEXT NEGOTIATING SESSION, BUT WE ANTICIPATE IT WILL TAKE PLACE TOWARD END OF THIS WEEK OR EARLY NEXT WEEK. KISSINGER

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